THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST MEETING IN OCTOBER, THE 6th, THE SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB WILL HOLD ITS MEETINGS AT DRAUGHON'S BUSINESS COLLEGE AT 409 E. MARTIN ST.

We wish to thank the Perry Shankle Company for allowing the club to use the fine facilities of their conference room this past year. The club has been offered meeting and classroom space at Draughon's Business College that will allow the club to conduct its own code and theory classes when ever we want. So with the 6 October meeting and all future meeting come downtown to Draughon's, just east of the Telephone building across Auditorium Circle.

WEST GULF CONVENTION

Remember to be in Kerrville on 13-15 October for the West Gulf ARRL Convention. Circle these dates on your calendar and don't make any other plans for that weekend. The people of Kerrville have gone all out to make this convention one to remember. There will be a lot of prizes to be given away and if you send in your registration early you will also have a chance at a special prize that will make any ham real happy. The sum of $10.00 entitles you to attend all the activities and technical discussions. Incidentally, the activities will consist of a barbecue Friday night with all you can eat and drink, a big dance on Saturday night, and the Banquet Sunday noon. For hams 16 years and under there is a special rate of $3.50 for the technical talks and chances at the prizes. It will cost extra to attend the dance, barbecue or banquet, but the pjrice will be reasonable. Also, one of the summer camps will be open and the younger hams or those coming by themselves can spend the night at the camp for about $1.50 or less. Check with the registration desk at the convention or write for information or registration. Send your check and information concerning the accommodations you desire to Kerrville Radio Club, P. O. Box 925, Kerrville, Texas. See you at the convention.

DX NOTES

The weekend of October 13th will be a big one for DX men. Gus Browning, W4BPD will present the story of his fabulous DX-pedition in which he activated such rare spots as Monaco, San Marino, French Somaliland, Qator and Trucial Oman to name but a few. He has color slides of his trip, and those who have heard Gus say he is a most entertaining speaker. Area DX-'ers certainly owe Sandy, W5AZB, a rousing vote of thanks for making it possible for Gus to come to the West Gulf Division ARRL Convention at Kerrville on 13-14-15 October. Of course the West Gulf DX Club will hold its annual meeting at Kerrville too, including election of officers.

August was a lively month DX-wise. Shades of 1958; the 20 meter band supported S-9 signals from every continent; and stayed open all night through. 15 meters was open every day until late at night; and good signals were heard on ten meters as well. I don't know whether the cosmonaut's

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rocket caused all that ionization or not; but it was sure great while it lasted. W5UX picked up UA1KED of Franz Josef Land to carry him past the 290 mark; W5EJT added VR6TC and 7G1A/TZ while W5LGG pulled in OY8RJ and UH8AN. Incidentally, anyone needin ga VR6 QSO (CW only at the present time) should write Bob Stark, W5OLG, for schedule information.

The fun halted abruptly on August 23, however, when the bottom (or should I say the top) fell out of the sky, and the bands returned to their normal conditions. It will be interesting to see if the U. S. space plan to orbit millions of tiny aluminum slivers for the purpose of reflecting radio signals is attempted. If that doesn't work out maybe we can orbit a few dozen 20 meter dipoles as an artificial ionosphere!

Prefix changes have come so rapidly of late, that not even the ARRL is sure of this list; but perhaps it will hold true for a little while, and tell you where some of the exotic calls heard now-a-days come from.

5R8 Malagasy Republic (Madagascar)
FH8 Comoro Islands
6T5 Mauritania
9U5 Ruanda Urundi
5U7 Niger Republic
5N2 Nigeria
TU2 Ivory Coast
TN8 Congo Republic (French)
TT8 Tchad
TR8 Gabon
TD8 Dahomey
TV8 Upper Volta

73 & DX,
Len, W5LGG

VHF AND UP

The 1961 summer Sporadic E season on 50 mc. appears to be the best ever observed. September QST announced tentative results of the June VHF Contest and they report the most logs submitted and the most activity in 22 years of the contest.

Local evidence of terrific Es conditions was gathered by W5EDZ and W5LUU on 10 July when they worked the east coast on 144 mc. from about 1700 to 1900 CST, using the FM BC band as a tipoff. Both Ray Wangler, EDZ, and Derwin King, LUU, worked K2KGN, Bemus Point, N.Y. and W8TYY, Westerville, Ohio. Derwin also worked W8KAY, Akron, and K2LVR, Westfield, N.Y. The signals faded in and out every 15 to 30 seconds which would be characteristic of a sky-wave MUF signal just reaching above 144 mc. instead of ducting, as most 2 meter DX contacts are. They are mighty proud of the QSL's they've

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received, and indeed they should be.

Ray now stands at 8 states and 5 call areas on 2 meters with 60 watts into a 14 element Yagi. The converter uses a 417A feeding an NC-303.

W5LUU also reports his first attempts with meteor return signals on 11, 12, 13 Aug. with K4EUS in Chester, Va. Net result so far is a 15 second burst of K4EUS of 579 on 13 Aug., but 2-way contact was not made. Derwin is working on a KW final to put him in the high power league. Perhaps a poor ducting season is making Derwin look to the shooting stars for results!

Sometime back, the U.S. 2 meter record of 1200 miles was held by W5VY when Pat also worked Ohio. That record has since been replaced by others but was a thriller for its time.

Also on the 10th of July, just to show that the top of 6 meters also propagates as well as the low end, K5PIB was working out at 54 mc. Listen often on band openings and you'll hear Newt above 52 mc. This is an electronic version of "divide and conquer" to avoid congestion on the low end of the band which causes interference.

In the space area (or volumn), the U. S. has orbited over 100 objects (satellites, nose cones, rockets, etc.) with 9 of them still transmitting, mostly on 108 mc. Explorer VII still plays its bag-pipe tones faithfully on 19.990 mc. since it was not shut off last Oct. as planned, after being on for a year. The R and D which produced the shut-off clock resulted in the Accutron, the watch which uses a 360 cps. tuning fork to drive a transistor oscillator. Injun and SR-3, which did not separate on launch with Transit IVA, transmits on 136.50 mc. and 108.09 mc. The 136 to 137 mc. band will gradually replace the 108 mc. portion. Good luck for now.

Cal Graf, W5LFM

40 METERS

Woody, K5HLP has a new G77 mobile rig is his VW and is operating up a storm. W5FYO, Cliff, is on 40 mobile every morning and has been getting good reports. A lot of new locat stations have been heard on the band such as K5WOS, Bill; K5EBC, Mike; K5CQK, Marty; W5DYR, Lou; K5GHG, Bob; K5-UGU, Jim; K5-TYF, Jim; W5VIO, Glenn; W5MIF, Rocky; K5OFJ, John; K5FLJ, Steve; W5CTL, John; K5DNE, Roy; W5-IOZ, Paula; W5CAW, Stan; K7-AKJ/5, Ben; W5OSK, Al; K5QFV, Mel; W5FND, Willard; W5DUW, Mac; K5IPB, Sonny; W0DTG/5, John; W5FPK, Larry; K5GMX, Bill; K5GHH, Bob; W7BRZ/5, K5BJZ, K5ETJ, K5DJJ, and many others. Gene, W5HQJ, and XYL, Pearl, from Lufkin visited W5FAP during August.

Understand things have been real quiet on the northwest side of San

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LARRY K5FQA RAY K5ENP

Antonio since "Broad Jack" (K5-QFH) has departed our midst for Uncle Sam's Navy. Jack is now in boot camp at San Diego. Best of luck, Jack.

Visitor in town, K5MKL, Walt from Brownwood. Also W5CIW operating mobile on the way home to Boerne.

Some new DX on 40, YV5APX, Joe, Caracas, Venezuela broke in on QSO the other evening. Also early morning sideband DX, ZL3ID and ZL3LE. Your author snagged both the other morning. Would sure like to have reports from other sources.

73,
Aubrey, K5MOF

NEWS

Anyone tuning the 40 & 75 meter bands during the recent "Carla" hurricane heard ham radio at it's best. In a time of emergency or disaster is when the skills of the amateur can be proven. Many people laugh and belittle working contests, or checking into nets. They can see little or no benefit from these activities. Those of you who listened and knew stations from some of these nets, heard that they were the ones to set up net control stations on their net frequencies. Anyone was welcome to join, but order was maintained by stations who were experienced in checking in groups of stations quickly and with continued order. Emergency nets went into operation upon first word of a hurricane and many operated continuous until the storm was over, only to continue trying to get Welfare messages through to areas that were still without telephones. Not all message got through, but that was certainly no fault of our great hobby. There were simply no amateurs in these areas to take the messages.

We believe after "Carla" the people in Texas and Louisiana will have a higher regard for amateurs. And perhaps each small city regardless how small will be proud to have a ham operator as one of their citizens, who perhaps can be the only link with the outside world in time of disaster.

And to the many hams who stayed off the air during this emergency "our hats off to you."

DIRECTORY OF CERTIFICATES

Are you a red blooded certificate collector? Or do you just collect certificates that come your way by accident? Either way you might be interested in getting the book of Books certificate wise. It is called the "Directory of Certificates" and can be ordered from, Clif Evans, K6BX, Box 385, Bonita, Calif. for only $4.00. You might qualify for several certiciates already, but just don't know about it. Besides it would make a swell gift for the "ham who has everything."

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The San Antonio Radio Club has elected new officers to serve beginning in October. Elected President was Mr. Ray Hennington, W5IWE, Vice-President is Mr. Charles Hilderbrandt, K5VCR, Secretary is Mr. Ray Wangler, W5EDZ, the new Treasurer is James E. Tutledge, K5UKN, and the Sgt. at Arms is Bob Rosson. We wish the new officers the best of luck in the coming club year and we also want to thank the outging officers for the excellent job that they have accomplished is helping the club grow.

GUTTER DOPE

Did you hear about the local ham that left one of the tubes for his final on the patio and it accidentally (?) was tossed in the trash. Somewhere around town there is a yellow garbage truck with a two-way radio that really puts in a whoppin' signal to the dispatcher.

M. D., K5PKX, has a new sailboat and is making like an admiral on Woodlawn Lake. Maritime Mobile?

There is a lot of interest in the coming convention in Kerrville. The San Antonio hams will be out in full force and from what we hear a good time will be had by one and all. Make your plans now. There will be a special prize for pre-registration. $10.00 will cover the cost of the barbecue (all you can eat or drink), the dance and the Banquet on Sunday. Plus you get a chance at the many door prizes being offered. There will also be special prizes for the ladies so be sure to bring the XYL.

Did you head the definition of an old timer? An old timer is a ham that has the S-line paid for. Hi!

Remember October 1st is the deadline for Amateur Call Letter license plates. You must have a form notarized and mailed to Austin. The local radio supply houses have forms available.

Certificate hunters there is a new certificate available for working 100 or more Texas Counties. This certificate is offered by the Dallas Amateur Radio Club.

W5LGG is the proud owner of a 75A4.

W4BPD, Gus, will give the DX-er's a thrill in Kerrville at the ARRL Convention with his slides on his DX-peditions.

New YLs heard are Katherine, K5-TSZ, on 40 meters and W5HIZ on 6 meters.

K5OPT, Ruth, receiving Certificate Hunters Club No. 280.

Friends of W5HHE, Ray Garren, will be happy to hear that he is up and around again after a recent illness.

W5VPQ and W5TSE visiting San Antonio on their vacation recently now have new calls, W4VLS and W4-VLR.

One of our advertisers now has a new phone number. Modern Electronics Company's number is now PE 5-9271. Visit their new store at 910 W. Laurel.

Word has been received from W5VPQ & W5TSE in Virginia that they will be heading back to good old San Antonio before the snow flies.

Question of the Week—Who's the Major in S. A. who after buying a KWM-2 couldn't come to the radio parts houses without his wife?

HURRICANE CARLA

As we go to press Hurricane Carla is poised off the Texas coast ready to vent her fury on the towns in her path. As usual Hams are in the forefront providing the necessary radio communications for officials and for welfare messages. We can't acknowledge all those who are participating in this emergency situation, but they know that the job they are doing is a necessary job that gives each person that participates a feeling of accomplishment. There are no rewards except that of self satisfaction for a job well done. It is times like this that the ham operates in the Public Interest, Convenience Or Necessity. It is disheartening though to hear a couple of hams disregard the plea to leave the emergency frequency clear. Luckily this type of person is in the minority.

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